

Press Bulletin No. 168

Agricultural Experiment Station

Kansas State Agricultural College

Historical Document
Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station

What is Pure Bran?

Consumers of concentrated feeding-stuffs have for years at times found more or less occasion for complaint in reference to their quality. This finally resulted in the passage of a State law nearly two years ago which, as amended last winter, is still in force. In its present form it requires no registration or special guaranty or tagging for pure bran or pure shorts, while impure feeds of the general nature of these must be registered as mixtures and be labeled so as to show the net weight of the package, the name and address of the manufacturer, the name of the feed, and a guaranty as to the percentage of fat and of protein. Hence a definition or description of pure bran becomes of considerable importance to manufacturers and consumers alike.

The chemist of the Experiment Station, who is by the law charged with the duty of inspecting feeding-stuffs in person or by deputy, holds that bran to be pure must not include anything that is separated from the wheat in preparing it for the milling process. Some wheat as marketed contains bits of straw, broken weed stems, oats, cheat, and other foreign substances that must be removed before the wheat enters the rolls for grinding. All such screenings must be excluded if the bran is to be classed as pure.

The shrunken wheat unfit for flour-making and also removed in this preparatory process is doubtless of equal feeding value with the bran, and its presence in bran is not economically objectionable, though technically an impurity. This shrunken wheat is by some millers ground and separated into a coarse part and a fine part, the former being put into the bran and the latter into the shorts. Such action is held to be legitimate, but this should not be taken as an approval of the introduction in a ground state of the other light materials of little feeding value. If such materials, either ground or unground, are marketed with the bran the product must be sold as "bran and screening," and under the general label and guaranty referred to, and must be registered with the Director of the Experiment Station.

Some millers who make corn-meal dispose of the corn bran, separated in that process, by mixing it with the wheat bran. This practice is not legitimate, and if followed the mixture must be designated as "wheat bran and corn bran" and be registered and labeled as described above.

Millers can adopt and maintain a high standard for their bran, and put out a product in which they can take pride, only by keeping out all adulterations. These by-products of questionable character can be disposed of without loss by making a mixed feed with which they may be incorporated, which must of course be registered with the Director of the Experiment Station annually and carry the proper label and guaranty. Purchasers will then know what they are getting, and Kansas bran will be of a uniformly high grade.

Attention may also be drawn to the fact that the rulings above stated are in harmony with the policy of the federal authorities in respect to mill products entering interstate commerce.

Consumers of bran and other concentrated feeding-stuffs are invited to bring to the attention of the chemist of the Experiment Station any evident disregard for the provisions of the feeding-stuffs law, bearing in mind that accidents are liable to occur in any establishment, and that millers as a class are of a high order of honor and integrity.

J. T. WILLARD,
Chemist Experiment Station.

Manhattan, Kan., November 3, 1908.